

here in the people's House with me. Insufferable fans though they are, on balance they are pretty good folks. Meanwhile, go Marlin's.

#### WAXMAN AMENDMENT ON H.R. 3289

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the company from which Vice President CHENEY, the sitting Vice President of the United States, the company from which he continues to draw \$13,000 a month, Halliburton, is back in the headlines.

The latest example of impropriety from the Vice President's company comes in the form of price-gouging gasoline in Iraq at the expense of American taxpayers. Halliburton is overcharging United States citizens, as reported in *The New York Times*, as reported in studies, to the tune of \$250 million, money we are not spending on prescription drugs for seniors, money we are not spending on education, money we are not spending on highways. Halliburton is overcharging U.S. citizens \$250 million, a ploy that independent experts have termed simply "highway robbery."

Here is how their scheme works: Halliburton procures gasoline that they generally get from Kuwait, gasoline that can be bought in the Persian Gulf for 71 cents a gallon. It could be transported to Iraq for no more than 25 cents per gallon. It is brought to the United States, to New York Harbor, for under a dollar. So they buy it for 71 cents; they transport it to Iraq for 25 cents. That brings the total to 96 cents a gallon. Halliburton then adds on its profit margin 2 to 7 percent, bringing the price total to \$1.03 a gallon. Yet Halliburton charges the Federal Government, the government where DICK CHENEY is the Vice President, the government where the Vice President, DICK CHENEY, used to work for Halliburton and still gets \$13,000 a month from Halliburton, Halliburton charges our government, us taxpayers, between \$1.62 and \$1.72, an extra 60 or 70 cents per gallon, a profit margin of over 55 percent. That is the \$250 million which independent experts have called highway robbery from Halliburton.

To add insult to injury, the American taxpayer subsidizes that cost when it is sold to the Iraqi people for between a nickel and 15 cents a gallon.

My constituents in northeast Ohio remember seeing gas prices skyrocket the afternoon of September 11, 2001, as some gas station owners sought to make profit from a national tragedy. It did not work for them when they tried that kind of war profiteering. Unfortunately, it is working for Halliburton, and my constituents are outraged that Halliburton is making money at our taxpayers' expense ultimately from a national tragedy.

The Bush administration has asked for an additional \$2 billion for the Iraqi oil sector. One billion of that would go to buying gasoline, cooking gas, kerosene, and diesel fuel for Iraq; and it costs about \$4 million a day. Halliburton will continue to pocket outrageous, some might say corrupt, profits.

All taxpayers bear the burden of unbid contracts, of price hikes, of inadequate supplies for our troops in Iraq. We are spending \$1 billion a week in Iraq. That number will go up as Congress just appropriated last week \$87 billion more for Iraq, as we had already appropriated \$70 billion before that. We are spending \$1 billion a week. A third of that money is going to private contractors. A lot of that money goes to Halliburton and Bechtel, companies close to the President. Companies which are major contributors to the President of the United States in those unbid contracts simply are not accountable.

At the same time, this administration has not been able to supply and to provide for our troops. Not enough safe drinking water for our troops. Too many of them have come down with dysentery. Not enough body armor, Kevlar jackets for our troops. One quarter of them do not have body armor. The administration has said by December, even though they knew they were going to war a year ago, they would finally get the body armor to our troops. All of that against the backdrop of \$1 billion a week, \$300 million of that going to unbid contracts to companies like Halliburton. And, again, understand, Mr. Speaker, Halliburton is still paying \$13,000 a month to the Vice President of the United States.

The private contractors seem to have all the money and supplies they want, but our troops do not. Something is wrong with this picture.

The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) offered an amendment to cure this gasoline gouging problem, this highway robbery problem where Halliburton has taken \$250 million extra from U.S. taxpayers. I cannot understand how Members of this body can support Halliburton as it continues to gouge the U.S. taxpayers. In almost a party-line vote, this House of Representatives rejected the amendment that would have stopped the abuses from Halliburton from the Vice President's company, that would have stopped this highway robbery.

The administration continues to give Halliburton a free hand to exploit American taxpayers for every last dime they could get. Halliburton should be ashamed. This Congress should be ashamed. The administration should be ashamed for that kind of a ripoff of U.S. tax dollars especially in wartime.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 10 a.m.

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#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) at 10 a.m.

#### PRAYER

The Reverend Tom Nelson, Senior Pastor, Denton Bible Church, Denton, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Could we pray. Our Father in Heaven, You created us. Your law, the edict of Thy very nature is our protection and our guide. Your benevolence continually sustains us. Your grace hath protected us always in the defense of the weak. Guide now these men and women to steer a clear path and to guide our Nation amidst the obstacles of our day. Grant them discernment to perceive the true, the courage to stand in it, and mercy to administer it to all.

And in so doing, may You be pleased and may You lift up the light of Thy countenance upon us. For Your pleasure is our solitary good and our confidence. May evil be winnowed at this our gate and may the sun of Thy favor rise upon us. For it is in Thy saving name that we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### WELCOMING THE REVEREND TOM NELSON, GUEST CHAPLAIN

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today is a special day for me and a special day for this House to have our deliberations blessed by the Reverend Tom Nelson.

Born in 1950 in Waco, Texas, Tom grew up in a family of four boys. For higher education, he chose the University of North Texas, my alma mater, where he graduated in 1973.